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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER
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21 November 1961
NPIC/IM-42/61

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF

THROUGH: TALENT Control Officer, USAF

25X1A ATTENTION: [REDACTED] AFIC-31

SUBJECT: Ground/Road Pattern Near Plesetsk, USSR

REFERENCES: (a) Requirement AFIC-25-61
(b) NPIC Project JN-248/61

1. This memorandum is in response to a request for a photo analysis of a ground/road pattern located at 62-44N 40-27E, 5 nautical miles north-east of Plesetsk, USSR.

2. A description of the pattern follows (Figure 1): At a right angle from the Plestsy/Kochmas road, an access road extends southeast for 820 feet, turns and continues south for 1,420 feet, and turns back southeast for 330 feet. Approximately 370 feet from where it turns south, the road is intersected by a roughly perpendicular road. At each end of the intersecting road is a scarred area. The centers of these two scarred areas are 1,150 feet apart, and each area is equidistant from the access road.

3. The access road and the scarred area to the left are visible on KEYHOLE photography of [REDACTED] No change in this portion of the pattern is discernible on the photography of [REDACTED]

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25X1D

Declass Review
by NIMA/DOD

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SUBJECT: Ground/Road Pattern Near
Plesetsk, USSR

NPIC/IM-42/61

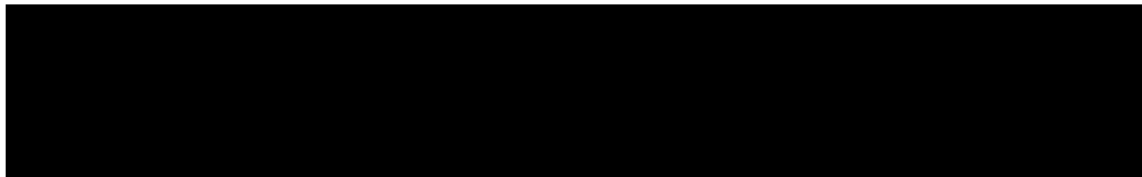
4. The function of this ground/road pattern cannot be determined from the photography. However, a comparison of it with identified Soviet ICBM launch areas rules it out as a possible ICBM launch area, for the following reasons:

- a. The only access to the pattern is from the north; access to known ICBM launch areas is from the south. The large unidentified complex near Plesetsk (see NPIC/R-4/61) is located 10 nm north of this pattern.
- b. There is no evidence of launch support structures.
- c. The road pattern is inadequate.
- d. The access road is equidistant from the scarred areas. In known ICBM launch areas the access road is offset from center.
- e. No evidence of construction activity in the [REDACTED] period between coverages is apparent.

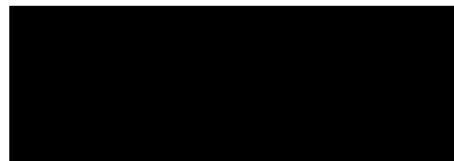
25X1D

5. The area is covered by the following photography:

25X1D



FOR THE DIRECTOR, NPIC



Executive Director

25X1A

Enclosure:

Figure 1. Location of Ground/Road Pattern Near Plesetsk.

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25X1A NPIC/PAC [REDACTED] (20 November 1961)

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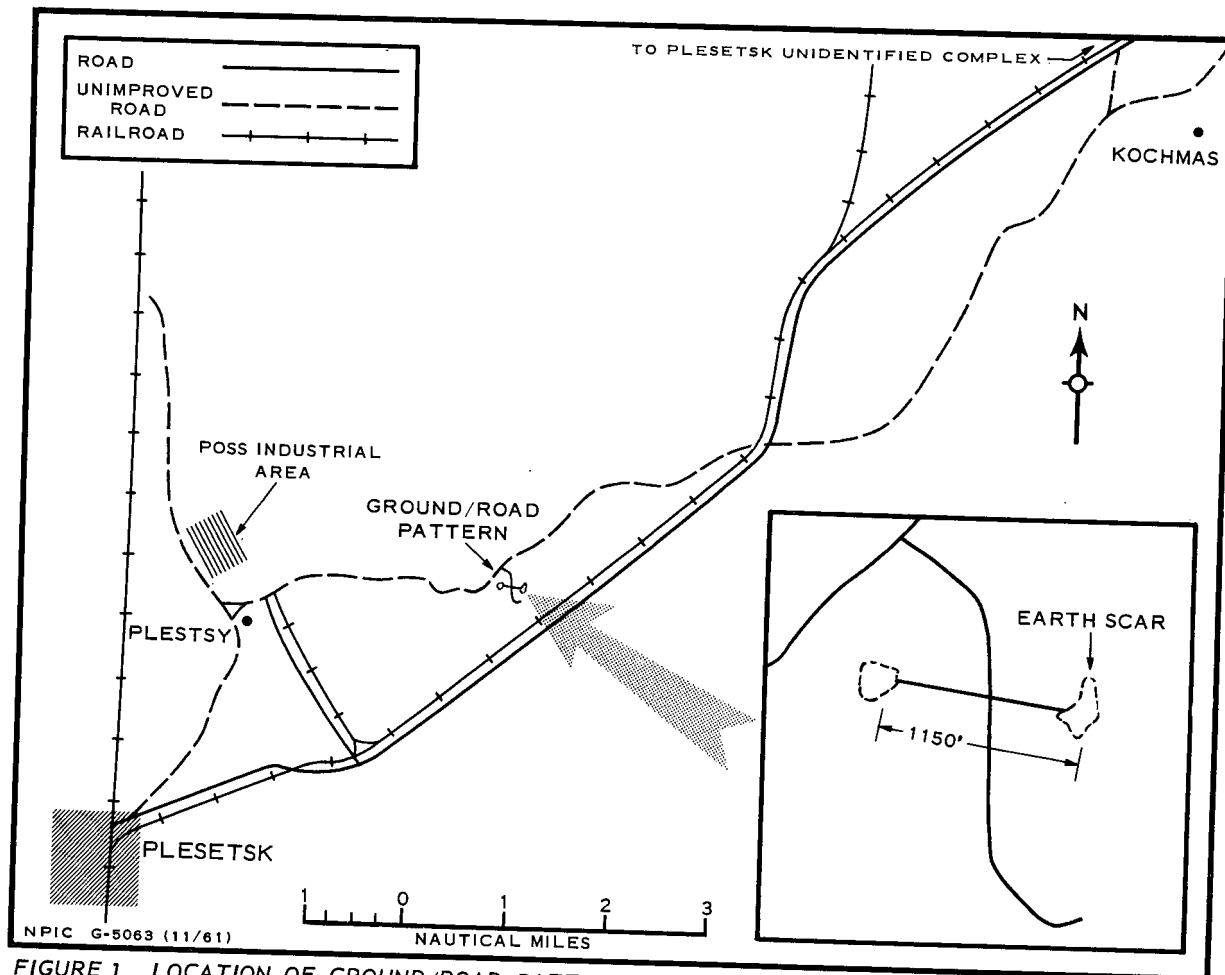


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF GROUND/ROAD PATTERN NEAR PLESETSK. Inset shows configuration of this pattern.

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